

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for testing, in a biological sample from a patient infected by HIV-2 containing at least one HIV-2 viral strain, the resistance of said HIV-2 viral strain to treatment with an antiprotease agent, comprising wherein, using known methods, investigating the presence of ~~at least one a~~ mutation at ~~one of positions 45, 54, 64, 84, and 90~~ of the protein sequence of the protease of said viral strain ~~is investigated~~, said mutation having previously been found to elicit said resistance, and ~~wherein~~, if such a mutation is found, ~~it is concluded~~ concluding that a viral strain resistant to said antiprotease agent is present in the patient in question.

2. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 1, wherein:
a) ~~using known methods~~, the presence of ~~at least one a~~ mutation at ~~one of said positions~~ position 90 of the protein sequence of the protease of said viral strain in a biological sample taken from a patient infected with HIV-2 is investigated,

b) ~~of the mutations founds~~ a mutation found in a), ~~those~~ which, after cloning in an HIV-2 virus, ~~do does~~ not prevent the virus clone obtained from multiplying in culture in the presence of said antiprotease drug ~~are~~ is selected, and

c) if ~~at least one the~~ mutation is selected at step b), it is concluded that resistance exists to the antiprotease drug referred to in b).

3. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the presence of ~~at least one mutation chosen from the following mutations:~~ the mutation

K 45 R, I 54 M, I 64 V, I 84 L and L 90 M,

in the protein sequence of the protease of said viral strain is investigated and in which said resistance is concluded to exist if said mutation ~~or said mutations~~ is ~~or are~~ present.

4. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein, to detect a mutation of the protein sequence of the protease, a corresponding mutation is sought in the nucleotide sequence of the gene of said protease.

5. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 4, wherein said test is carried out using hybridization techniques, ~~according to known methods.~~

6. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 4, wherein said test is carried out using sequencing techniques, ~~according to known methods.~~

7-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~154~~, wherein said mutation in the sequence of the gene corresponds to ~~one of the following mutations: K45R, I54M, I64V, I84L~~ and L90M.

22-25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said mutation corresponds to a codon for position 90, which is ATG, instead of CTG or CTA.

27. (New) The method of claim 1, said method further comprising investigating the presence of at least one additional mutation at one or more of positions 10, 45, 46, 54, 64, 82 and 84 of the protein sequence of the protease of said viral strain.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the at least one additional mutation is selected from the following mutations: V10I, K45R, I46V, I54M, I64V, I82M and I84L.

29. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein, to detect the at least one additional mutation of the protein sequence of the protease, at least one corresponding mutation is sought in the nucleotide sequence of the gene of said protease.

30. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said additional mutation is at said position 10.

31. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said additional mutation is at said position 45.
32. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said additional mutation is at said position 46.
33. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said additional mutation is at said position 54.
34. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said additional mutation is at said position 64.
35. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein said additional mutation is at said position 82.
36. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said additional mutation is at said position 84.
37. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein said additional mutation corresponds to a codon for position 45, which is AGA, instead of AAA.
38. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein said additional mutation corresponds to a codon for position 54, which is ATG, instead of ATA.
39. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein said additional mutation corresponds to a codon for position 64, which is GTA, instead of ATA.
40. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein said additional mutation corresponds to a codon for position 84, which is CTC, instead of ATC or ATT.